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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0783
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RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 4772
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 6215
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RUEANAT/NASA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR OES AND EAP/J

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [TSPA](#) [TSPL](#) [PREL](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON SATELLITE
COLLISION

REF: STATE 12948

This Message is Sensitive But Unclassified. Please Handle
Accordingly.

11. (SBU) Econoff delivered points contained in ref to MOFA
International Science Cooperation Division Principal Deputy
Director Shigenobu Kobayashi February 13. Kobayashi
appreciated the update on the collision between the U.S.
Iridium and Russian Cosmos satellites and stressed MOFA's
desire for more information on the causes of the incident as
the investigation unfolds. He noted the large number of
pieces of debris raises concern about the possible effect on
the International Space Station (ISS), Japanese and other
satellites in orbit, and the upcoming Space Shuttle launch.
(Note: The next Space Shuttle flight, planned for February
22, will include a Japanese astronaut who will stay on the
ISS for three to four months. Japan also has a \$10 billion
science laboratory permanently attached to the ISS. End
Note). Kobayashi inquired as well how long the investigation
will take and whether the Russian Cosmos satellite contained
any nuclear material that could pose a hazard.
ZUMWALT